UNICEF Georgia COVID-19 Situation Report
9 October 2020

HIGHLIGHTS

- UNICEF organized the first International Conference on Child Rights in partnership with Akaki Tsereteli State University – For more information, please see the Weekly Focus on page 4.
- UNICEF delivered 450 food and hygiene boxes, along with vitamins and micronutrients, to the Ministry of Health of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara for distribution to 150 pregnant women and 300 children under self-isolation.
- UNICEF, with the financial support from the Swedish International Development Agency, distributed food parcels and hygiene supplies to 350 vulnerable families in Abkhazia, Georgia, reaching 1,073 children and 858 adults.
- UNICEF and the Rugby Union of Georgia signed a Memorandum of Cooperation to mark the launch of a new phase of the partnership, aiming to raise awareness on COVID-19, advocate for the protection of children from violence, and promote crime prevention and healthy lifestyle among children and young people.
- To support continued access to education, UNICEF delivered entertainment and educational materials for kindergartens and a youth center, as well as computers, projectors, and network devices for schools in Pankisi Gorge.
- UNICEF supported the creation of a child-friendly space in Pankisi Legal Aid Bureau (LAB) to all children and their parents seeking legal service from LAB.
- UNICEF’s partner RHEA Union launched activities in Akhalkalaki and Aspindza to provide developmental activities for children and young people with disabilities.

SITUATION IN NUMBERS

- **10,752** Confirmed cases
- **72** Confirmed deaths
- **1,327** Child (<18 years) cases
- **5,574** Quarantined
- **Abkhazia**
  - Confirmed cases – 2,071
  - Confirmed deaths - 19
- **UNICEF funding gap**
  - US$ 1,841,399 (42%)

Humanitarian Strategy

UNICEF continues to work closely with the Government, WHO, and other United Nations and humanitarian partners to provide technical guidance and support. In line with WHO’s COVID-19 Strategic Response Plan, UNICEF is focusing on risk communication; provision of critical hygiene supplies and PPE for frontline workers; and mitigating the secondary effects of the outbreak by facilitating continued access to healthcare, education and child protection services, as well as social protection programmes for children, pregnant, and lactating women.

Communication for Social Change (C4SC) and External Communications

- UNICEF and the Rugby Union of Georgia signed a Memorandum of Cooperation to mark the launch of a new phase of the partnership, aiming to raise awareness on COVID-19, advocate for the protection of children from violence, and promote crime prevention and healthy lifestyles among children and young people. As part of the partnership, members of the Rugby Union of Georgia will engage in advocacy of COVID-19 prevention measures, and as a symbolic gesture, will wear the UNICEF logo on their face masks during the Eight Nations tournament.
- With the financial support of USAID and in partnership with NCDC and the Ministry of Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia, UNICEF organized a second meeting with media representatives on COVID-19.
on 26-27 September. The conference aimed to raise awareness of Tbilisi-based and Kakheti-based broadcast journalists about the evolving situation, prevention measures, and regulations to respond to the pandemic.

- **UNICEF continued to provide parents with information and skills on how to communicate with their children and support them in coping with COVID-19-related stress.** A [webinar](#) was streamed for parents of children aged 6-12, reaching over 15,000 Facebook views, and seven short videos were developed and shared on social media to support parents in improving communication with their children of this age group.

- **Seven regional TV channels broadcasted 28 special news programs**, totalling 102 editions on COVID-19 protective measures. Minority language TV channels aired an additional 20 programs (totalling 80 editions) on the topic in Azerbaijani and Armenian languages.

- An advocacy campaign for the safe reopening of schools continued with UNICEF [Representative’s video address](#) focusing on the importance of equal access to education for every child in Georgia. The campaign also included a series of [photo stories](#) of children sharing their experiences about distance learning and school reopening, as well as a [video story](#) of a kindergarten teacher speaking about the importance of preschool education.

- **UNICEF risk communication reached 583,099 people through Facebook on COVID-19 issues.**

### Health, Nutrition and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- **UNICEF delivered 450 food and hygiene boxes**, along with vitamins and micronutrients, to the Ministry of Health of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara for further distribution to 150 pregnant women and 300 children under self-isolation.

- **UNICEF, with the financial support of SIDA, and together with the Public Charity Organization KIARAZ, the Holy Metropolis of Abkhazia, the Charity Fund Amshen, and groups of volunteers, distributed food parcels and hygiene supplies to 350 vulnerable families in Abkhazia, Georgia, reaching 1,073 children and 858 adults.**

- A [Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation](#)-supported expert reviewed the WASH conditions in three schools in the Gulripshi district of Abkhazia, Georgia.

- **UNICEF’s virtual antenatal care programme reached 23,140 pregnant women**, out of which around 39% participated in virtual medical consultations. To date, the programme covered red zones, such as Bolnisi, Gardabani, Marneuli, and Vani, as well as the entire pregnant population of Tbilisi, Adjara, Guria, Imereti, Samegrelo-Zemo Svaneti, Kakhet, and Mtskheta-Mtianeti regions.

### Adolescents/youth

- During the reporting period, youth volunteers contributed 1,277 hours to peer education, distance learning, and social activities, such as the following: (1) feeding homeless animals, volunteering with homeless children, supporting homeless and elderly citizens, conducting an information campaign on volunteering issues, popularizing the idea of volunteering; (2) organizing entertainment meetings with the involvement of the local community to reduce the stress caused by the pandemic, showing movies, information campaigns to prevent the spread of the virus, sewing and distributing reusable masks free of charge, supporting the elderly, sports activities for young people, and online creative competitions; (3) engaging in charitable activities, assisting to socially vulnerable families, as well as to people with disabilities. Volunteer stories were prepared and disseminated through Facebook, reaching 17,269 people.

- **UNICEF’s partner, Global Initiative in Psychiatry (GIP), continues a series of online webinars for adolescents and their parents, covering pandemic stress and coping mechanisms, reaching 1,000 views.**

- Psychosocial center - Synergy conducted 54 consultations for adolescents and 9 one-time consultations for parents in Tbilisi, as well as undertook 25 psychological sessions for adolescents and 5 consultations with parents in Batumi.

- **UNICEF partner organization - Adjara Organization of Georgian Scout Movement, initiated an online session for school students of Adjara mountainous villages on COVID-19 prevention measures. During the reporting period, six schools engaged in sessions, covering around 240 students.**

- 35 adolescents, including 20 adolescents from the Adjara Organization of Georgian Scout Movement, attended weekly lectures on Stress Management, Leadership, and Branding.

- 30 parents attended an online coaching session on Parental Emotion and Emotional Connection between Parents and Adolescents.
Child Protection

- In partnership with the Parliament and State Care Agency, the UNICEF-supported child hotline “111” continues to provide assistance to children and their families, supporting 961 cases to date, of which 826 already received assistance and were closed accordingly. There is an increase in the number of cases related to violence against children, reaching a total of 64.
- UNICEF partner, Initiatives for Social Change (ISC), started training and supervision sessions for social workers and psychologists from the State Care Agency and the National Agency for Crime Prevention and Probation (Probation Agency). A total of 85 professionals received training on various issues concerning children in conflict with the law, and 30 social workers from the State Care Agency completed the training on Social Work During an Emergency. ISC, in cooperation with the respective department of the Probation Agency, initiated the development of guidelines for online mediation in criminal cases.
- Through group and individual sessions, UNICEF’s partner, Children of Georgia, provided online psychological support to 324 children and 239 caregivers in small group homes and foster care, covering all regions of Georgia.
- UNICEF partner, RHEA Union, launched activities in Akhalkalaki and Aspindza to provide developmental activities for children and young people with disabilities. Around 17 children and young people benefitted from art therapy and felting classes during the reporting period.
- A Facebook page to support parents of children with disabilities, run by UNICEF’s partner, MAC Georgia, continues to provide practical information, one-to-one counseling with specialists, and chats for parents and caregivers, engaging 134,895 people.
- UNICEF supported the creation of a child-friendly space in the Pankisi Legal Aid Bureau. The room is equipped with furniture and materials with consideration to children’s specific needs, ensures privacy, and prevents re-victimization of children in contact with the law. This space will serve all children and their parents seeking legal services from the Legal Aid Bureau in Pankisi Gorge.

Social Policy

- UNICEF visited all regions of Georgia to present the findings of the Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) to local governments and NGOs, focusing on COVID-19-related indicators. The MICS results generated high interest, with some of the regions expressing willingness to carry out an in-depth analysis of those indicators, which demonstrated to be most challenging, especially in the COVID-19 context.

Education

- To support continued access to education, UNICEF delivered entertainment and educational materials for kindergartens and a youth center, as well as computers, projectors, and network devices for schools in Pankisi Gorge.
- The Ministry of Education of the Autonomous Republic of Adjara, the International Federation of the Red Cross and UNICEF are partnering to improve access to online education for vulnerable children in the region.
- UNICEF, in close collaboration with NCDC, is supporting MoESCS in the safer reopening of schools, including the development of child-friendly posters on COVID-19 preventive measures for use in preschools and primary schools.
With UNICEF support and in partnership with CK-12 Foundation, Education for All Coalition is translating and adapting interactive and online teaching and learning resources for students and teachers of Georgia.

The Field Office in Abkhazia received disinfectant, soap and infrared thermometers which will be distributed to all schools and kindergartens in Abkhazia.

**WEEKLY FOCUS: RESULTS FOR CHILDREN**

On 1-2 October, UNICEF, in partnership with Akaki Tsereteli State University, organized the first International Conference on Child Rights in Kutaisi. The two-day conference brought together child rights experts, diplomats, government officials, students and professors, as well as international and civil society organizations in Georgia, to share experiences on the incorporation of child rights into university education.

UNICEF Representative: “By learning about child rights, and the child rights approach, children and adults are empowered to bring about change in their immediate environment and the country at large.”

The participants were welcomed by the Minister of Education, Science, Culture, and Sport - Dr. Mikheil Chkhenkeli, UN Resident Coordinator - Dr. Sabine Machl, UNICEF Representative - Dr. Ghassan Khalil, and Akaki Tsereteli State University Rector - Dr. Roland Kopaliani.

The Kutaisi International Conference provided a space to share experiences in teaching and learning about child rights, aimed to empower future specialists to act towards putting child rights into practice in their daily lives at home, at school, and in their communities. The conference provided a structured exchange among international and national experts on theory, research, policy, and practices relating to child rights.

Akaki Tsereteli State University Rector: “The importance of cooperation between UNICEF and Akaki Tsereteli State University is quite significant as for the first time in University history, the Child Rights Centre will be established, which further highlights the role of universities in the extremely valuable work of protecting child rights.”

As part of the Conference, UNICEF supported the establishment of the Child Rights Centre at Akaki Tsereteli State University, which will serve as a resource hub to raise awareness on child rights among different specialists, civil society organizations, academia, parents, and children.

Incorporation of child rights into higher education will lay the ground for the specialization of all professionals working with and for children, as guided by the Code on the Rights of the Child of Georgia, which took effect on 1 September 2020.

**Funding**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme Areas</th>
<th>Funding Needs</th>
<th>Funds Identified</th>
<th>Funding Gap</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>282,100</td>
<td>17,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Protection</td>
<td>514,000</td>
<td>260,650</td>
<td>253,350</td>
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<td>Health, Nutrition and WASH</td>
<td>3,001,399</td>
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<td>Social Policy</td>
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<td>Risk Communication and Community Engagement</td>
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<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>4,415,399</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,574,000</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,841,399</strong></td>
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Partnerships

UNICEF wishes to express its gratitude to donors supporting its response to COVID-19: Bulgaria, Estonia, the European Union, Korea, Norway, SIDA, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, UKAid, and USAID.

The next Situation Report will be issued on 16 October 2020

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